

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BAMA KO 01018 121418 Z

41-11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 SR-02 ORM-03

IGA-02 CIEP-02 RSR-01 SPM-01 AID-20 /174 W

----- 051672

P R 121030 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6938

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BAMA KO 1018

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, ML

SUBJECT: DROUGHT SITUATION IN MALI

REF: BAMA KO 1010

REPORT ON WESTERN NIGER RIVER BEND REGION FROM NIAFOUNKE TO
TROBUKTU (VISITED APRIL 3-8 BY FSO DAVID J. PEASHOCK):

1. THIS HEAVILY POPULATED AREA, INCLUDING PARTS OF V AND VI
REGIONS IS TEETERING ON EDGE OF CATASTROPHE. NORMALLY THIS AREA
GROWS AROUND 70,000 TONS MILLET, RICE, AND WHEAT ALONG NIGER
RIVER AND THE MANY LAKES FOUND THERE, BUT THIS YEAR THERE
WAS LITTLE RAIN AND GRAIN PRODUCTION WAS ZERO.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BAMAKO 01018 121418 Z

2. MUCH OF ABLE- BODIED MALE POPULATION HAS FLED SOUTH AND WEST SEEKING FOOD AND EMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO LOCAL OFFICIALS, " THOUSANDS" OF TUAREG AND MAURITANIAN NOMADS HAVE MIGRATED TO THE RIVER VILLAGES, SWELLING POPULATION AND FURTHER AGGRAVATING AN ALREADY DIFFICULT FOOD SITUATION. OPAM WAS ABLE TO BRING IN SOME GRAIN BEFORE RIVER LEVEL FELL, AND SOME GRAIN ALSO FLOWN BY SOVIET AND FRG AIRLIFT INTO GOUNDAM AND TIMBUKTU. HOWEVER, TOTAL SHIPMENTS HAVE NOT YET COME UP EVEN TO USUAL GRAIN SUPPLEMENT NEEDED BY THIS CHRONICALLY SHORT AREA. RATIONING IS IN EFFECT EVERYWHERE WITH ARMY AND OPAM OPERATING WELL AND APPARENTLY WINNING PEOPLE' S CONFIDENCE. STILL GRAIN WILL SOON BE EXHAUSTED, IN TIMBUKTU AT END OF MAY, AND IN GOUNDAM, DIRE AND NIAFOUNKE AT END OF APRIL. THESE FOUR CIRCLES NEED A TOTAL OF 9,000 TONS TO HOLD OUT UNTIL NEXT SEASON' S HARVEST AND, OF THIS, 4,000 TONS BEFORE RIVER NAVIGATION IS AGAIN FEASIBLE IN AUGUST.

3. SITUATION IS BEING HELPED AT THIS TIME BY RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF MEAT CAUSED BY SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS LEFT STRANDED IN AREA WITHOUT ADEQUATE WATER AND/ OR PASTURAGE. HOWEVER, BENEFITS OF THIS NEGATIVE WINDFALL WILL SOON EVAPORATE AS ALL CATTLE AND SHEEP LEFT WILL EITHER DIE OR ARE SLAUGHTERED. MEAT PRESERVATION OR SALTING POTENTIAL IS MINIMAL. MOST CATTLE WERE HERDED DURING EARLY PART OF YEAR FURTHER SOUTH TO INTERIOR OF D# PTA, WHERE MANY ARE NOW STRANDED AND ARE OVERGRAZING

THE LAND, OR FURTHER SOUTH STILL TO AREAS AROUND KOUTIALA, SIKASSO, AND BOUGOUNI. THESE AREAS LESS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND STILL HAVE WATER AND GRASS.

4. IN OUTLYING PARTS NORTH- EAST DROUGHT ZONE, SORGHUM BEING BLACK- MARKETED AT 50 MF/ KG COMPARED WITH CONTROLLED PRICE OF 40-60 MF/ KG.

5. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED RUMORS OF SOME STARVATION OF THE SICK, VERY OLD AND VERY YOUNG IN OUTLYING VILLAGES. EVEN WITH MORE EMERGENCY AIR SHIPMENTS, DEATH RATE IN THESE GROUPS LIKELY TO SKYROCKET, BUT WITHOUT IT, STARVATION OF WIDER GROUP OF THOSE WHO REMAIN WILL BECOME PROGRESSIVELY MORE WIDESPREAD. AFRICAN SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IS TO TAKE OFF FOR BETTER AREAS TO SOUTH. THIS MAY WELL HAPPEN, BUT WILL COMPOUND PROBLEMS ELSEWHERE AND CAUSE FURTHER DISLOCATION AND MISERY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BAMAKO 01018 121418 Z

BLAKE

NOTE BY OCT: BAMA KO 1018; # AS RECEIVED; WILL SERVICE ON REQUEST.
(PARA 3; PLACE NAME)

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BAMAKO01018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730439/aaaaiejc.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BAMAKO 1010
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971222
Subject: DROUGHT SITUATION IN MALI
TAGS: EAID, ML
To: ABIDJAN
AF
DAKAR
NIAMEY
NOUAKCHOTT
OUAGADOUGOU
PARIS

ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005